

For Immediate Release

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Mayor Coleman, Councilmember Tyson Celebrate Opening of Largest Sustainable Fueling Station in Ohio

Mayor Michael B. Coleman was joined today by Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson, representatives of Clean Fuels Ohio, the City of Dublin and the U.S. Department of Energy to mark the opening of the city's first compressed natural gas station, the largest fast-fill station of its kind in Ohio and likely in the Midwest. The CNG station is located at 4211 Groves Road in Columbus and will be open to the public this summer.

"This is more than just a fueling station," Mayor Coleman said. "This marks our transition to a diversified and cleaner fuel for our community."

Columbus expects to save approximately \$80,000 per year in fuel costs from this station. CNG is averaging \$1.80 per gas gallon equivalent compared with \$4.05 per gallon of diesel. In addition, CNG reduces carbon emissions by as much as 90 percent. The initial infusion of 24 CNG vehicles for the city will reduce emissions as much as if 96 cars were taken off the road annually.

"This fueling station positions Columbus to be at the forefront of the nation and our region for developing energy efficient transportation at a cost savings for our residents," said Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson, chair of the Finance Committee.

The City of Columbus was supported through a grant Clean Fuels Ohio received from the U.S. Department of Energy in 2009. The total cost of the CNG station is \$4.2 million, with \$1.1 million coming from the Department of Energy. While the station is for use by the City of Columbus fleet, it will also be open to area fleets and the general public. Natural gas offers significant environmental, energy security, and economic benefits, producing lower tailpipe emissions and greenhouse gases than diesel or gasoline. Also, unlike gasoline, natural gas is non-toxic, non-corrosive, and non-carcinogenic and presents no threat to soil, surface water, or groundwater.

Columbus has been a long-time leader in greening its fleet, voted the No. 1 greenest fleet in North America by Government Fleet in 2011 and repeatedly recognized by many organizations for its efforts. As part of Mayor Coleman's Get Green Columbus initiative, Columbus has a comprehensive Green Fleet Action Plan that lays out specific strategies to reduce petroleum use and increase use of cleaner fuels such as electric, E85, biodiesel and CNG.